IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 63 and 113, and cancel claims 74, 88, 89, 91, 108, 109 and 138, and the second occurrence of claim 88 (renumbered as claim 89 herein) without prejudice, as provided herein below. A complete listing of all claims and their current status is provided on the following separate sheets.

Claims 1-62 (Canceled).

63. (Currently amended) An apparatus for treating dermatological conditions, comprising:

a delivery arrangement configured to direct an electromagnetic radiation generated by an electromagnetic radiation source to at least one particular area within a target area of skin, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is adapted to at least one of ablate or cause thermal damage to epidermal tissue and dermal tissue of the at least one particular area from a surface of the skin through an entire depth of the epidermal tissue and to at least a particular depth within the dermal tissue; and

a control arrangement configured to ~~control~~ interact with the delivery arrangement such that the delivery arrangement directs the electromagnetic radiation onto a plurality of spatially separated particular areas within the target area~~;~~

wherein the control arrangement is further configured such that, upon a completion of treatment of the entire target area, at least two immediately adjacent particular areas are separated from one another by at least one further skin portion that is at least one of undamaged, unablated and/or unirradiated.

64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the electromagnetic radiation source is an ablative laser.

65. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the electromagnetic radiation source is one of a diode laser, a fiber laser, a solid state laser and a gas laser.

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, further comprising a case having an aperture formed in a sidewall of the case, wherein the case contains the electromagnetic radiation source, the delivery arrangement and the control arrangement.

67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66, further comprising a transparent plate in registration with the aperture, wherein the transparent plate seals the case.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the electromagnetic radiation has a particular wavelength.

69. (Original) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the transparent plate absorbs a predetermined amount of the electromagnetic radiation at the particular wavelength.

70. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the transparent plate is cooled to provide an anesthetic effect to the target area of the skin.

71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the transparent plate is configured to be cooled to at least 37°C and at most negative 20°C.

72. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the delivery arrangement comprises a beam collimator.

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the delivery arrangement comprises optical components.

Claim 74. (Canceled)

75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the plurality of spatially separated particular areas cover at least five percent of the target area and at most sixty percent of the target area.

76. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein an average distance between adjacent ones ~~each~~ of the plurality of particular areas is at least 10 μm and at most 2000 μm.

77. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein each of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas has a diameter of approximately 0.1 mm.

78. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein each of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas has a smallest dimension along the surface of the skin of at least 1 μm and at most 500 μm.

79. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, further comprising an optically transparent plate disposed between the delivery arrangement and the target area of the skin.

80. (Original) The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the optically transparent plate is cooled.

81. (Original) The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the optically transparent plate cooled to at least 37°C and at most negative 20°C.

82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein a first one of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas is separated from a second one of the spatially separated particular areas by less than about 500 μm.

83. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 82, wherein the first one of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas is separated from the second one of the spatially separated particular areas by a non-irradiated region of skin.

84. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein a first one of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas is exposed to a first electromagnetic radiation associated with a first set of parameters and a second one of the spatially separated particular areas is exposed to a second electromagnetic radiation associated with a second set of parameters.

85. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein at least two of the particular areas are separated from one another by an unaffected area.

86. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85, wherein a width of the at least one further skin portion is at least approximately 125 μm.

87. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85, wherein a width of the at least one further skin portion between is less than approximately 500 μm.

88. (Canceled)

~~88.~~ 89. (Canceled)

90. (Previously Presented) A method for treating dermatological conditions, comprising:

(a) controlling an electromagnetic radiation source to generate first and second electromagnetic radiations;

(b) causing the first electromagnetic radiation to be applied to a first particular area of a plurality of spatially separated particular areas within ~~of~~ a target area of skin, wherein first epidermal tissue and first dermal tissue of the first particular area are at least one of ablated or thermally damaged from a surface of the skin to through an entire depth of the first epidermal tissue to at least a particular depth within the first dermal tissue; and

(c) causing the second electromagnetic radiation to be applied to a second particular area, wherein second epidermal tissue and second dermal tissue of the second particular area are at least one of ablated or thermally damaged from the surface through an entire depth of the second epidermal tissue to at least a particular depth within the second dermal tissue, wherein the first electromagnetic radiation is one of the same as or different from the second electromagnetic radiation, and wherein, the electromagnetic radiation source is controlled such that, upon a completion of treatment of the entire target area, the first and second particular areas are separated from one another by at

least one further skin portion that is at least one of undamaged, unablated and/or unirradiated.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the electromagnetic radiation source is an ablative laser.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the electromagnetic radiation source is one of a Er:YAG laser, an ablative laser, a carbon dioxide laser, a diode laser, a fiber laser, a solid state laser, or a gas laser.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the plurality of spatially separated particular areas cover at least twenty percent of the target area and at most forty percent of the target area.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein an average distance between each of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas is at least approximately 10 um and at most approximately 2000 μm.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein each of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas have a diameter of approximately 0.1 mm.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein each of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas has a smallest dimension along the surface of the skin of at least approximately 1 μm and at most approximately 500 μm.

99. (Original) The method of claim 90, further comprising the step of:

(d) placing an optically transparent plate in registration with the target area.

100. (Original) The method of claim 99, wherein the optically transparent plate is cooled.

101. (Original) The method of claim 99, wherein the optically transparent plate cooled to at least approximately 37°C and at most approximately negative 20°C.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the first particular area is separated from a second particular area.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the first particular area is separated from the second particular area by non-irradiated skin.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the first electromagnetic radiation is associated with a first set of parameters, and wherein the second electromagnetic radiation is associated with a second set of parameters.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein at least two of the particular areas are separated from one another by an unaffected area.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein a width of the at least one further skin portion is at least approximately 125 μm.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein a width of the at least one further skin portion is at most approximately 500 μm.

Claims 108-112 (Canceled).

113. (Currently amended) An apparatus for treating dermatological conditions, comprising:

a delivery arrangement configured to direct an electromagnetic radiation generated by an electromagnetic radiation source to at least one particular area within a target area of skin, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is adapted to at least one of ablate or cause thermal damage to epidermal tissue and dermal tissue of the at least one particular area from a surface of the skin through ~~to~~ an entire depth of the epidermal tissue and to at least a particular depth within the dermal tissue; and

a control arrangement configured to ~~control~~ interact with the delivery arrangement such that the ~~delivery arrangement directs the~~ electromagnetic radiation is directed onto a plurality of spatially separated particular areas within the target area~~;~~

wherein the control arrangement is further configured such that, upon a completion of treatment of the entire target area, at least two immediately adjacent particular areas

are separated from one another by a further portion of the skin that is at least one of undamaged, unablated and/or unirradiated, and wherein a width of the further portion of skin along the surface is less than about 2000 μm.

114. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein the electromagnetic radiation source is an ablative laser.

115. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein the electromagnetic radiation source is one of a diode laser, a fiber laser, a solid state laser and a gas laser.

116. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, further comprising a case having an aperture formed in a sidewall of the case, wherein the case contains the electromagnetic radiation source, the delivery arrangement and the control arrangement.

117. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 116, further comprising a transparent plate in registration with the aperture, wherein the transparent plate seals the case.

118. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 117, wherein the electromagnetic radiation has a particular wavelength.

119. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118, wherein the transparent plate absorbs a predetermined amount of the electromagnetic radiation at the particular wavelength.

120. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 117, wherein the transparent plate is cooled to provide an anesthetic effect to the target area of the skin.

121. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 117, wherein the transparent plate is configured to be cooled to at least 37°C and at most negative 20°C.

122. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein the delivery arrangement comprises a beam collimator.

123. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein the delivery arrangement comprises optical components.

Claim 124 (Canceled).

125. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein the plurality of spatially separated particular areas cover at least five percent of the target area and at most sixty percent of the target area.

126. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein an average distance between each of the plurality of particular areas is at least 10 μm.

127. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein each of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas has a diameter of approximately 0.1 mm.

128. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein each of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas has a smallest dimension along the surface of the skin of at least about 1 μm and at most about 500 μm.

129. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, further comprising an optically transparent plate disposed between the delivery arrangement and the target area of the skin.

130. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 129, wherein the optically transparent plate is cooled.

131. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 129, wherein the optically transparent plate cooled to at least 37°C and at most negative 20°C.

132. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein a first one of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas is separated from a second one of the spatially separated particular areas by less than about 500 μm.

133. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 132, wherein the first one of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas is separated from the second one of the spatially separated particular areas by a non-irradiated region of skin.

134. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein a first one of the plurality of spatially separated particular areas is exposed to a first electromagnetic radiation associated with a first set of parameters and a second one of the spatially separated particular areas is exposed to a second electromagnetic radiation associated with a second set of parameters.

135. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 113, wherein at least two of the particular areas are separated from one at the surface another by an undamaged area of skin.

136. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 135, wherein a width of the undamaged area of skin between two adjacent particular areas is at least approximately 125 μm.

137. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 135, wherein a width of the undamaged area of skin between two adjacent particular areas is less than approximately 500 μm.

138. (Canceled)

139. (Canceled)